Growth of National Consciousness in the United Provinces (1880 – 1920)

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INTRODUCTION

The North-Western Provinces was an administrative region in British India. The North Western Provinces succeeded the coded and conquered provinces and existed in one form or another from 1836 until 1902, when it became the Agra province within the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh(or U.P). Allahabad served as its capital in 1858. The Province included all divisions of the present day state of Uttar Pradesh with the exception of the Lucknow division and Faizabad division of Awadh. The North-Western Provinces was governed by a Lieutenant governor or who was appointed by the East India Company from 1836 to 1858, and by the British Government from 1858 to 1902.

In 1856, after the annexation of Oudh state, the North Western Provinces became part of the larger province of North Western Provinces and Oudh. In 1902, the latter province was renamed the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh; in 1904, the region within the new United provinces corresponding to the North Western Provinces was renamed the Agra Provinces. The United Provinces came into existence on 3rd January 1921 as a result of the renaming of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. Lucknow became its capital sometime after 1921.

My study begins with the set up of the life in the United Provinces – the common people castes, tribes, the social structure, the effect of the British Rule on the life of the common people. How the British Rule with its policies in various sphere slowly turned the people away from it making them start to raise their voice against the British Raj thereby, giving birth to the feeling of nationalism in the province. The people belonging to different caste, communities and various other differences came together in the wake of nationalism though the future also parted ways in the communities. The work studies the enormous influence of the British on the socio economic and political fabrication of India. The setting up of important political institutions like the Aligarh Institute, the work of organizations like the Congress, the Ram Krishna Mission, Arya Samaj, Home Rule Movement, the work of eminent Indians, the passing of various and important landmarks in the constitutional setup of India like the Act of 1909, the Act of 1919 with their effect

on the United Provinces, the rise of militant nationalism with extremism with specific reference to my study in the United Provinces during the period 1880 – 1920 covers the topic. Thus, the various aspect of Indian life in the above mentioned period with the Renaissance as its central theme is explained. This period marks the development of modern India with the shift taking place in political leadership and power to the United Provinces. The dominance of this region had profound implications for Indian politics. The study of the growth of Indian administrative system during the period need special coverage along with growth of communal frenzy with the development of nationalist felling in the United Province.

To conclude, the work successfully touches the various aspect of the different phases of nationalism in the United Provinces within the specific time period from 1880 – 1920.

Objectives

1. To study United Provinces which being one of the largest Provinces of the British India, acted as the centre stage in various phases of the Indian National Movement.

2. To study the period (1880 – 1920) which is marked for its growth of nationalist feeling in this province. These years constitute the most critical and formative period in the history of the United Provinces.

3. To study the important and landmark changes in the legal and constitution setup affecting the Provinces.

4. To study religious, social, political, cultural, economic changes in the United Provinces with the growth of Nationalism.

5. To study the role of important political and religious organization in shaping the present and future of the United Provinces.

6. To study the effect of nationalist feeling in the United Provinces affecting the everyday life of the common people.

Review of Literature

Ashman,Sam (1997) emphasize the company rule to further their interests in the pursuit of profit, how the revolt of 1857 blew up the foundations of company rule, the transition of the Company rule to Crown rule , the mutiny drew the govt. of India into a closer alliance with the conservative landowners and princes making the base for the growth of national consciousness. The naked plunder and the theories of 'The Drain of Wealth', developed by early Indian National Congress figures, would become important to the development of a national movement against the British. Lord Mayo wrote in 1869,"We hold India by a thread. At any moment a serious danger might arise." The ideology of martial races took shape from the late 1880s and was used to justify a recruitment policy directed towards relatively marginal religious and ethnic groups who were regarded as less likely to be affected by nationalism. The feeling of opposition to Britain was registered all over India after the partition of Bengal in 1905. The extension and scope of the nature of Elections in 1909 was definitely under the pressure of rising nationalism. Strikes by tens of thousands of jute, rail, steel, textile and tea plantation workers led to mass unionization. Then Congress launched its own fist India wide mass nationalist campaign of non cooperation with the British in 1921.

Jiang, Lan and Li, Dong (2016) analyses the appearance of British India Islamic nationalism among the British Indian Muslims. The muslims in the United Province grew the United Province to be a strong political vanguard. They carried out political activities , established political parties and disseminated their political ideology around the British India. The muslims in the United Province played a mainstay role in the political movement among the Indian muslims, so this paper aim at studying on the social situation of United Province as a start to find new methods and to enrich research about the British India Islamic Nationalism. The threats to the muslims of the United Province in the early 20^{th} century were educational problems- the western education threatened the religious beliefs, social customs and political status of muslim elite, the exclusion of bureaucracy , the prevalence of electoral politics. In fact, the rising of the nationalism movement was largely driven by England policy.

Gupta ,Charu(1998) emphasize that the 1920s in United Provinces were marked by a growing movement of Hindu reformist, religious and communal organizations. The community and nation making discourse of the Arya Samaj and the Hindu Mahasabha launched the programme of the Shuddhi and Sangathan on a large scale in 1923 in the region. The political energies of the Hindu reform movement were harnessed for a more militant articulation. They presented a contrast to and a critique of alien rule in the public sphere. It served as a powerful tool to argue for unity among the Hindu community, which could then become a discourse for the nation . Swami Shraddhanand launched the Shuddhi campaign in U.P. The paper stresses on the simultaneous appropriation of a standard anti British nationalism motif and a mythical construction of Hindu masculinity. An added dimension of this was the close alliance that was constructed between the Hindu male, community and nation. The Shuddhi movement assumed a wider significance of a national and political movement. Also the nation was pictured as 'matribhumi' or motherland. The deployment of icons, images and themes has helped in constructing and negotiating a Hindu identity. The present paper is an attempt to explore Hindu 'Shuddhi' and 'Sanghthan' movements in the United Provinces in the 1920s under the wave of nationalism.

Grover, B.L and Grover, S. (2003) stress on narrating the factual data about various topics starting from the decline and disintegration of the Mughal empire upto the first phase of Independence. It also discusses the numerous and often contradictory interpretation given by the Indian and western scholars about the Government policies during this period. The author discusses the growth and development of the Indian National Movement in various phases. It covers the social, political, economic and religious spheres of the Indian society affected by the British.

Misra, B.R.(1942) attempts to explain that in a predominantly agricultural country like India, no item of revenue can be compared in importance to land revenue. Agrarian problem and policies greatly influence the prosperity of the masses of the country. Hence the problem related to land revenue that is, the principle of assessments, tenancy legislation, land alienation, protection of the cultivating

classes from the exploitation of the zamindars, construction of irrigation works, introduction of scientific methods of cultivation and the institution of cooperative movements need special mention. The present work aims at presenting a synthetic view of the land revenue policy in the United Provinces under the British rule. The land revenue is understood from a historical perspective. He mentions four landmarks noticeable in the growth of land revenue system in the United Province under the British rule. The first period centres around the Permanent settlement, the second period began soon after the mutiny and came to a close with the viceroyalty of Lord Curzon. The third period witnessed the development of the Co operative Movement and the introduction of the agricultural research and experimentation followed by the fourth period of reforms relating to land revenue and tenancy problems.

Meena, H.R.(2015) this paper examines the enormous influence of the British on the socio- economic and political fabrication of India. The Education system based on the doctrine of Macaulay(1835) became a means of colonization. The British rule used education as an instrument of colonization and covering the Indian intelligentsia into government clerks. Evaluating different experiments made in the procedure of educational structure, this paper compares the condition of learning and learner, both in terms of quality and quantity, in pre- colonial and colonial period. It also underlines the basic design of newly introduced experiments in Education system and their consequences in India. The analysis combines qualitative data from primary and secondary sources from the district gazetteers and colonial censuses related with population and educational data. It is ironical to narrate that at the time of Independence in 1947, 88 percent of Indians were illiterate. However, India's rich and glorious history , as revealed by western scholars, helped Indian population to regain their lost pride and confidence and contributed to the development of nationalism.

Malik , Nadeem Shafiq (2012) stress the formation of muslim political organizations with special reference made to their formation in the United Provinces. Beginning with Sir Syed Ahmed Khan founding a Muhammaden Political Association on 1883 in Aligarh and Indian Patriotic Association with highlighting the active role of Muhammaden Anglo Oriental Defence Association. Important meetings held at Lucknow, Saharanpur, Aligarh highlighted their role in the United Provinces. The references to international issues by Muslim League made it admit the 'unsatisfactory state of European politics and the constitutional struggle going on within the British Parliament ', the mistreatment of the Indians in the British colonies assumed an important issue for the Muslim League, the muslim interests were worldwide sought to be protected by the League made them demand self government suitable to India and join the Non Cooperation Movement , whose resolution was passed in Nagpur in 1920.

Gupta, Charu (2000) in her research paper is concerned with the all-out attempts made by hindu pamphleteers and campaigners especially to keep hindu women away from everything perceived as "muslim" in the United Provinces. Even day to day interactions with muslims were perceived as a serious threat to the hindu patriarchal order. The essay highlights the developments and changes in the internal dynamics of UP in the late 19^{th} and the early 20^{th} centuries affecting the social , religious and material arenas , the several conflicts and divisions centering around caste , function , education and the like

Meera (2014) in her paper traces the views of Swami Dayanand Saraswati on varnas and caste system . This article examines the impact of the Arya Samaj in the United Provinces .It also explores the vision of Swami Dayanand Saraswati on Arya invasion. The concept of Shuddhi was his new idea which became powerful all over northern India . It shows the Shuddhi rite of purification for conversion and social activities of Arya Samaj in United Provinces . This paper shows the activities of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha in United Provinces for removing untouchability.

Meena, Hareet Kumar(2015) presents in her paper that the British imperial rule unleashed far reaching changing in Indian agrarian structure. New land tenures, new land ownership concepts, tenancy changes and heavier demand for land revenue brought havoc changes, both in the rural economy and social web. Agriculture began to languish; large area went out for cultivation. Henceforth, an era of famines started, which has been termed as ‘ man made ‘ rather than natural. The present study documents multi layered structural ships in land tenure systems initiated by the Raj in India. This paper minutely examine the impact of British land tax system in colonial India using the census data on agricultural production and engaged population.

Puzari, Rekha and Mazane, Kazumi(2001) in their paper mention the growth of Indian nationalism and germination of left wings within the National Congress of India. It starts with Battle of Plassey and the beginning of the British rule in India, the revolt of 1857 and inception of the INC, the setting up of the All India League and the noticeable impact of the Russian Revolution of 1970. The birth of Communist Party of India in the course of our liberation struggle as a result of the efforts of Indian revolutionaries.

Swamy, Arun R.(2003) in his paper presents the growth of Hindu nationalism and what’s religion got to do with it. It examines the evolution of Hindu nationalist ideology to emphasize the point that has been made many times: whether or not Hindu nationalism is” fascist” it is most assuredly not ”fundamentalist”. It also reviews the evolution of Hindu nationalist organizations.

Johari,J.C.(1993)deals in detail regarding the work of various personalities who worked for India’s freedom, the introduction of representative institutions which would prove to be one of the most important practical steps towards the amelioration of their condition. There were various other reforms being the empowerment of Indians in civil services. The growth of the Congress along with the lukewarm support of the Muslim in various spheres is given space. The Act of

1892 and the expansion of the legislative council and the United Provinces to feel aggrieved at the Provincial Executive Councils. The work deals in great length the various voices in India's freedom struggle.

Meena, Hareet Kumar(2015) examines the land revenue or land tax as the primary source of revenue of all Empires in India. The paper focuses on the economic outlook of the British imperial rule in India. Evaluating different experiment made in the procedure of land revenue collection this paper compares the condition of peasantry in pre-colonial and colonial India. It also underlines the basic design of newly introduced revenue collection and settlements and their consequences on Indian society and economy.

Vivekanand, Swami(1993) explains India's history, culture and ideals, the contribution of India to world and the immense role that religion plays in Indian life. He mentions about the degradation of India and describes in detail the causes of our downfall. He stresses on the way to regeneration and the elevation of laboring classes of India and the masses, the upliftment of women and the awakening of masses to develop the lost individuality in the Indian minds. He gives a detailed account of the essence of education highlighting Education as the manifestation of the perfection already in man with its goal as self reliance. He also looked forward to the problems of Indian women. He talked of National Integration in detail, hindu muslim relation and Unity in diversity. The book also mentions his stirring utterances. His ideas about future India are clearly given space. Swami Vivekanada's mission of India's freedom and emancipation needs special mention. The relevance of Swami's philosophy is rightfully brought out in his book.

Methodology

Methodology is the systematic, theoretical analysis of the methods applied to a field of study. A methodology offers the theoretical underpinning for understanding which setup methods or best practices can be applied to a specific case.

Descriptive research aims at casting light on issues or problems through a process of data collection that enables them to describe the situation more completely than was possible without employing this method. Three main purposes of descriptive studies can be explained as describing, explaining, and validating the research findings.

My subject of study being descriptive in nature covers the study of both primary and secondary sources. The original documents of the Lords and Viceroys serving in India, their accounts and experiences will be taken note of. The work of various religious, political organizations taken up from Central Libraries and supported by the document saved in these centers at present.
The visit to National Archives, the authentic records through auto biographies of various political leaders in the other documentary evidence served my purpose of methodology.

The records of various government proceedings in the passing of landmark historical judgment, the Imperial gazetteers have been connected for reference. Beside books of Indian nationalism in general and United Provinces by eminent and renowned authors, the research papers submitted by various research scholars and various newspaper articles are studied.

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